



Raness Tinnijinnie, left, and Raynee Demery drape Quentin Kolb, a Navy veteran, at VA hospital with a quilt made by Indian students from Alpine District.

Minority veterans given their due

Ceremony honors those who fought in WWII

5-2-00

By Joe Bauman

Deseret News staff writer

Often they were overlooked or suffered discrimination, but members of racial minorities provided gallant military service that was vital to winning World War II.

That was the message of a ceremony Monday in which officials saluted blacks, Indians, Hispanics and people of Asian heritage who fought for America during that war.

Veterans of that age group are dwindling in number, and many survivors are infirm. World War II veterans were not present for the first event on Monday, held in the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 500 Foothill Blvd. However, one Indian veteran of World War II and others who served in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts were able to attend a cere-

mony later that day in the medical center.

LaVonne Willis, director of the Utah Office of Veterans Affairs, noted that his great-uncle was a member of a black regiment in the days of segregation during World War I. The regiment fought alongside French troops and many of its soldiers won France's highest military awards.

In World War II, he said, the 99th Pursuit Squadron, another black organization, flew fighter escorts for bombers. The brave men

Please see **VETERANS** on B2

who fought in World War II. Despite discrimination, many joined the 442nd Central Postal Directory, whose nickname was "Go For Broke" because of their daring and drive.

"Let us never forget the sacrifices" made by Asian-Americans in World War II, Hawkins said.

James R. Floyd, director of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, said he hopes that this is the first of a yearly series of commemorations of the contributions of minority members of the military.

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Green. After further investigation, including meetings with Green and trips to his trailer community called Greenhaven, about 100 miles west of Delta, Leavitt decided he had plenty of evidence and an obligation to prosecute the 51-year-old magazine salesman.

"To me it's undisputed that Leavitt is a pedophile and it is not a victim," Leavitt said.

Leavitt considers Green's wife as a victim. He did not charge them. However subpoena them to testify.

At Green's preliminary hearing, Leavitt will present for the first time the evidence that Green committed the crime. Leavitt must simply show that Green committed the crime. Leavitt must simply show that Green committed the crime.

While many will be watching Leavitt closely and consider it a test case, the rape of a child is a more serious offense and carries a prison sentence on conviction of having sex with a 13-year-old. Leavitt will not say if the girl is one of Green's wives.

"That charge is much more serious," Leavitt said.

Green previously championed against the bigamy law and the courtroom challenge to what is right. Since the rape charge, Green has avoided the spotlight. Attorney do most of the talking.

The child rape charge is all that pro-polygamy groups have done. Green's case from the sidelines.

"That is something we don't do," Sydney Anderson, acting director

DINOSAUR

Continued from B1

ater will open as well.

By the summer of 2001, more than 50 skeletal displays will be finished and hundreds of fossils will be on exhibit.

Visitors will be invited to touch most of the items, fossil hunters relive the dinosaur period. Children also will have the opportunity to stay overnight, camping beside the dinosaur bones.

"We're going to turn every visitor who visits the museum into a paleontologist," said Bridges, museum president.

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UNDERDOG

Continued from B1

"You'll be able to see the dinosaurs from about two miles away in either direction," said Tom Pugh, president of Quantum Construction, the company overseeing the project.

The Camarasaurus is some 80 feet long and can be seen by travelers on I-15 heading south. The T-Rex, affixed to the outside wall of an Iwerks Extreme Screen Theater, is more than 35 feet tall and visible from the north.

Both were sculpted by Cliff Green of Western Paleontological Laboratories. Work started last week and should be completed this week.

"These external replicas are just a tease of the hundreds of actual fossils the

Workers put a piece on the T-Rex relief on the side of North American Museum of Ancient Life.

museum visitor will see inside the building, said Cliff Miles, chief executive officer of Western Paleontological Laboratories.

The museum will ultimately house the largest dinosaur exhibit in the world, Miles said, including the longest and one of the tallest dinosaurs ever discovered. Rare dinosaur exhibits also will be featured.

The \$20-million museum building

boasts six stories and provides 83,000 square feet of display space. A Boeing 747 aircraft could be parked inside.

By early July, twelve different dinosaurs and 30 ancient flying reptiles will be on display as part of the first phase.

A dig site, laboratory and a number of educational "learning stations" will begin operation. The 350-seat giant screen the-

Please see **DINOSAUR** on B2



the 4th District courthouse with his five wives and numerous children.

Union, a pro-polygamy

port charge relates to support the state es. Last year Green stipulated to settle five law suits with the Office of Recovery. Leavitt married to any of the s. Allegedly, shortly after divorces them but with them. The unmarried allows them to qualify

for government assistance.

"Technically, I'm single and available,"

Green joked at a news conference last year. Green is reportedly only the fourth Utah polygamist prosecuted under the state's bigamy law in the past four decades. Many prosecutors and attorneys believe the law is unconstitutional because of the inconsistent and vagueness of the term "cohabitant" in the state code book.

Green remains free on a \$130,000 property bond.

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One problem, however, is that Prowswood received a \$1.5 million loan from the city and its Redevelopment Agency to acquire the CityFront site. It was supposed to start paying that off, oh, right about now, and Lofgren is trying to convince city officials to extend the terms.

"It could be a problem for us, but it may not be," said Deeda Seed, chief of staff to Mayor Rocky Anderson. "It just depends on how long he puts it off."

Salt Lake Organizing Committee officials say they're OK with the revamped deal because the total amount of media housing would not change, and journalists would still be close to the Salt Palace Olympic media center.

Lofgren wants to put the City-

Front project on hold partially because he's afraid of saturating the housing market after the 2002 Winter Games. During the Games most of the units will be occupied by more than 9,000 journalists coming to town.

Not counting the CityFront development, Prowswood plans to develop about 800 new units in Cambridge, the adjacent North Village Townhomes and the B Co.'s Gateway project west of the Union Pacific Depot, making it one of the largest residential developments in the city's history.

"My guess is (the city) will work with us" in reworking the deal, Lofgren said.

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Lawson is conservative enough that he believes Leavitt harbors a "liberal agenda cloaked in sheep's clothing." For candidates like Lawson, the best chance to make some

hard work already are showing signs of paying off. Congressional candidate Donald Dunn, a Democrat who plans to challenge Governor incumbent Rep. Chris Cannon

VETERANS

Continued from B1

of the squadron "proved to the skeptics and to the Germans both that they were wrong" in assuming black people couldn't master aviation. They were part of a long line of black service members dating to the Revolution.

Forrest S. Cuch, a member of the Northern Ute Tribe and the director of the Utah Division of Indian Affairs, said that when his father fought in World War II, the older

Cuch and a friend who was a Pueblo Indian were called to listen to an officer's radio. The officer asked them to translate the message that was coming over.

The message was spoken by one of the Navajo code-talkers, whose contributions were crucial both in Europe and the Pacific. No other code-talker was around to translate it. But the Ute and the Pueblo man listened and had to tell the officer that they couldn't tell what he was saying.

Just because they were Indians didn't mean they could speak that particular Indian language, they

pointed out.

In fact, said Cuch, the code-talking by the Navajo, Lakota, Choctaw and other groups was never cracked by the enemy. "Only recently are they receiving credit in the history books," he said.

"Our people continue to serve this country. It's our country too. We don't forget that."

Major Mark A. Ramirez of the Marine Corps noted that his father was an American citizen born in this country to a couple from Mexico, who returned to Mexico. When Ramirez's father went to San Diego

and joined the Marine Corps, at first "he had a hard time, to be honest, because he didn't speak English."

However, he added, "the military for many Hispanics is an opportunity." He called for more Hispanic students to stay in high school and earn diplomas so they can take advantage of such opportunities.

Capt. Catherine L. Hawkins of the Army Quartermaster Corps., herself a Japanese-American, noted the courage of the nisei, the Americans of Japanese ancestry

who fought in World War II. Despite discrimination, many nisei joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose nickname was "Go For Broke" because of their daring and drive.

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DESERT NEWS

temporary fencing used to keep rocks from tumbling onto the roadway. But completing such work in a pristine setting like Provo Canyon is not a simple task. Aesthetic and environmental concerns must be considered along with the Utah Department of Transportation's engineering and safety goals.

Also, the original plan has changed — which means more study and more public input is needed before work can move forward.

"We have a process we need to go through first, but we're optimistic that we can get some work going this year," said UDOT Region 3 project manager Dan